Recommendations of committee for amending mineral policy

† 1408. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Committee constituted for amending mineral policy and related laws alongwith Government's reaction thereto;

(b) the time-limit fixed for approving the proposals of the State Government for grant of the mineral concession by Central Government and also for disposing of the revision matters filed against the orders passed by it;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government will take necessary steps to prescribe the said time-limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission constituted to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 has given its recommendations including on the issue of reducing delays in procedure for grant of mineral concession. These recommendations are available on website of Ministry of Mines (www.mines.nic.in).

Based on the recommendations of the High Level Committee and input from stakeholders, National Mineral Policy, 2007 is under consideration of the Government.

Diamond mining in Panna

†1409. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mining of diamond in Majhganwa mines situated at Panna, has been stopped since year 2005;

(b) whether it has resulted into the shortage of diamond production, if so, the details of the last two years in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are considering to restart mining in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Mining of Diamond in Majhganwa mines has been temporarily discontinued *w.e.f.* 22.8.2005.

(b) As per available information, production of Tuff/finished diamonds has decreased as per details for two years as under:—

SI.N	Year	Tuff Diamond (in tonnes)	Finished Diamond (in carats)
1.	2004-05	685641	86257
2.	2005-06	233833	47433

(c) As per available information, National Mineral Development Corporation have approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to restart the mining operation since the said mines are part of Gangau Wild Life Sanctuary and that they have obtained all the required clearances.

Mining of gold

1410. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Gold Mines Limited has been finally closed;

(b) if so, which agency is operating for the production of gold in the country and how the mining and production of gold is monitored and controlled; and

(c) the present level of production of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (PR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was closed with effect from 1st March, 2001 under Section 25 (O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, there are three mines reporting production of primary gold in the States of Karnataka and Jharkhand. Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGMCL), a Government of Karnataka undertaking, operates two mines in Raichur District, Karnataka and one